Specially Designated Global Terrorist, along with Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and some other Pakistan-based organisations and individuals.

India and the United States have an ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. Besides sharing of information and assessment on terrorist groups in this region, the United States provides assistance through anti-terrorism training for law enforcement agencies in India, capacity building for consequence management and support for strengthening institutional structure in the country for combating terrorism. During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington from 7-9 November 2001, the two sides agreed to launch a new initiative on cyber-terrorism. The two countries also coordinate efforts on counter-terrorism initiatives in the United Nations.

Indians stranded on ships in international waters

1882. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "MEA blissfully ignorant about Indians stranded on high seas" as reported in the Statesman dated the 19th October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether a large number of Indians stranded on ships owned by different companies after US recent terrorism attack;

(c) if so, whether Government have not taken any sincere efforts to ascertain the fate of Indian on ships and stranded in the international waters; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government has not received any information from our diplomatic Missions abroad about any Indian nationals having been stranded on ships on high seas after the terrorist attacks on USA on September 11, 2001.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Availability of Foreign Loans after withdrawal of Sanctions

1883. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have lifted sanction against India imposed after the Nuclear Test Explosion;

(b) whether the sanction have been lifted without imposing any condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether after lifting of the sanctions submit foreign loan/aid would be available for developmental and other projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) All countries have lifted sanctions against India, with the latest being the USA on the 22nd September, 2001, and Japan on the 26th October, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As a result of the lifting of sanctions, foreign and multilateral assistance would be available for all developmental projects, and not merely for basic human needs projects.

New Passport Collection Centres

1884. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open new passport collection centers across the country; and

(b) if so, whether any such collection center is likely to be opened in Karnataka in view of huge rush in Bangalore office?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government is working to decentralise the